



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0019 Proclamation Honoring John R. Murphy Jr.

Read

Mayor Watson read the Proclamation which he presented to Police Lieutenant John R. Murphy Jr. at his retirement celebration on January 19.

PUBLIC HEARING

Recess for Public Hearing to Solicit Comments Prior to Preparation of the Proposed FYE 2008 Budget

David Helmold, 10 Prospect Street, Groton Long Point, discussed the time and cost associated with various school renovations in Indiana. Mr. Helmold requested a current progress report on Groton's school project including costs and a construction timeline. He stated that the cost centers in the next budget should highlight costs directly associated with the school projects which were established by the referendum.

Responding to Mr. Helmold, Mayor Watson and Town Manager Oefinger stated that there are periodic publications as well as information posted on the Town's web site relating to the school building projects. The Mayor reiterated that these projects are on time and within budget.

Councilor Bond concurred with Mr. Helmold's wish to have the progress of the school building projects posted on the Town's web site.

Responding to Mr. Helmold, Councilor Kolnaski invited him to attend a Permanent School Building Committee meeting.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes**2007-0021 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 16, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2006-0080 Review of SCCOG Items by Town Council**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0287 Moratorium on Active Senior Housing Developments

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0307 FYE 2006 CAFR

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0012 Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance (CEDA) Program Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0018 Job Description for Mail Courier - Finance Department

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Review of Attached Referral List for Additional Deletions

The Mayor suggested adoption of the Consent Calendar without the attached referral list of additional deletions due to the time it would necessitate. This list will be reviewed at the next COW meeting.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions**2007-0016 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$428.38 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Connecticut Elks Association - \$265.00 - Social Services Discretionary
David and Jean Evans - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Senior Citizens Club - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Robert and Renate Schneider - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Jean Simpson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lenny Winkler - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
United Way of Southeastern Connecticut - \$221.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Groton Lions Club - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Garfield in memory of Frank Cashman - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary
Charles L. Carroll - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Various donations - \$815.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)
John A. Copeland, Jr. - \$150.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors, Inc. - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Karen Cartier - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Martha Rebmann - \$25.00 - in memory of Frank J. Cashman
Jack and Jane Unkles - \$50.00 - in memory of Frank J. Cashman
Mr. & Mrs. John Wright - \$50.00 - in memory of Frank J. Cashman
Janet Dahill - \$25.00 - in memory of Frank J. Cashman
Ron & Carlene Bush - \$50.00 - in memory of Frank J. Cashman

Orchardo Family - \$100.00 - In Memory of Frank and Madeline Cashman

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Scott

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors attended the pre-dedication ceremony at the Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School on January 19.

Councilor Sheets received telephone calls regarding Councilor O'Beirne's article published in The Day which discussed the method the Navy used to determine the Military Value (MV) of the Subase. She also received a call from a citizen who is concerned about her personal property taxes and pointed out Mayor Destafano's proposal to freeze taxes for seniors in the city of New Haven.

Councilor Scott stated that he received calls regarding the revaluation and attended the Board of Education (BOE) budget hearings on January 27 and 30.

Councilor Streeter received an email from a resident who is concerned about the numerous vehicles and unsightly clutter on his neighbor's property.

Responding to Councilor Bartinik's inquiry regarding the BOE's budget meetings, Councilor Scott provided an overview of these meetings.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Permanent School Building Committee and Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors meetings on January 18. She attended the Public Works ceremony commemorating its receipt of a Public Works Department Honorable Mention Award on January 24. Councilor Kolnaski attended the BOE budget hearing on January 25. She attended the swearing-in ceremony at the Police Department and the Senior Computer Council Committee meeting on January 26. Councilor Kolnaski attended BOE budget work sessions on January 27 and February 5. She read books to students at Eastern Point School on February 5. Councilor Kolnaski attended the Town Council Board of Education RTM Liaison Committee meeting on January 17.

Mayor Watson attended the retirement celebration of Police Lieutenant Murphy on January 19. He attended the swearing-in ceremony at the Police Department on January 26. The Mayor attended the Noank Hatchery celebration on January 11.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The RTM will not be meeting in February due to lack of business.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox received a petition for consideration of a phase-in of property taxes. She also received Councilor O'Beirne's resignations from his positions on the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRA) and Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Advisory Board.

2007-0026 Appointment to Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority Board

RECOVERY AUTHORITY BOARD

Referred

Upon the suggestion of the Town Clerk, the Mayor made a referral for the Council's appointment to fill the alternate vacancy on the SCRRRA to the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger stated that the Planning Commission will continue its discussion regarding the Wal-Mart proposal at next week's COW meeting. If Group I and Group II meetings are cancelled, the COW meeting will start early due to its lengthy agenda. He asked the Councilors for their availability at the end of March and beginning of April for budget sessions. The Town Manager noted that only 4 applications have been received to date for the Elderly Tax Relief Committee. He would prefer to have 7 to 9 members on this committee.

The Mayor received consensus from the Town Council to extend the deadline for receiving applications for the Elderly Tax Relief Committee to the end of February.

Mr. Oefinger stated that there are 2 vacancies for residents wishing to serve on the Flanders Road Utility Extension Committee. He asked the Council to schedule a special COW meeting to review the consultant's recommendations and report on non-union terms and conditions. The Town Manager provided an overview of the potential zoning violation at the top of Fort Hill Road.

2007-0027**Burnett's Corners**

BURNETT'S CORNERS

Referred

Councilor Scott requested a referral to have a discussion with the Burnett's Corner Preservation Society with respect to its compliance with a structural evaluation as requested by Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn. This item was referred to the Community and Cultural Development Committee.

Mayor Watson added the following communications: the Town Manager will attend a presentation by the Humane Society on February 7, and a joint meeting with the City Council is scheduled for March 6.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne**

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a Committee of the Whole meeting on January 23 and the items on tonight's agenda are a result of that meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2006-0307 FYE 2006 CAFR

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2006 AUDIT REPORT

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm of Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2006 CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report), the Auditor's Report and Management Letter.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

Mr. Vincent highlighted the fact that the FYE 2006 Audit Report is shorter in length compared to prior years due to the lack of recommendations by the audit team.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0012 Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance (CEDA) Program Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR HOMELAND SECURITY COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, the Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance grants provide funds for public safety and police departments to purchase equipment for critical incident management related to terrorism as well as routine hazardous missions, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plan to use a grant to purchase a thermal imager that would assist officers in the detection of suspects or victims in areas of low or no lighting and to locate victims of disasters, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a Homeland Security grant of \$17,034.24 for Fiscal Year 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Mayor Watson noted that this type of item is usually discussed in the Finance Committee.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0018 Job Description for Mail Courier - Finance Department

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR MAIL COURIER

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has proposed a new job description of Mail Courier, to replace a recently vacated position of Office Assistant I, and

WHEREAS, the job of Mail Courier will be at a lower pay range, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description of Mail Courier, dated January, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Bartinik and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*